

door to their doctor's office slammed shut as a result of ill-advised cuts in Medicare reimbursements. Likewise, no veteran should have to worry that their TRICARE benefits no longer enable them to see a physician that they trust.

So many doctors in south Florida do everything they can to serve Medicare beneficiaries and America's veterans. This legislation will stop a 21 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement rates so that the doctors in our community can continue to do their important work.

Our seniors deserve access to more than simply Medicare; they deserve access to doctors. Let's show our doctors and the seniors and the veterans who rely upon them the respect that they rightly deserve, and let's continue to help restore financial security to the American people.

TRILLION DOLLAR WEEK IN D.C.

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I saw a headline yesterday that said it's going to be another trillion dollar week in Washington, DC. We are going to spend nearly \$1 trillion this week in Washington, and you know what? We don't even have a budget. There's another problem: we don't have \$1 trillion either.

So now what are we going to do? Well, we're going to go out and borrow some more money from the Chinese and other people. Remember the old days when you used to go to your parents and ask them if they could get a loan? Now we go to our children and ask them if they will pay back our loans.

We hear a lot of talk in this town about cutting expenses, cutting the budget. Well, it would be nice to cut a budget if we had one, but we don't. And how does the majority think that they can run this country or lead this Nation when they don't even have a budget? We don't even know what the deficit is going to be, but we hear it's going to be \$1.8 trillion. And by the way, a trillion, that's 12 zeros, in case anyone wants to know. In fact, Mr. SPRATT said, who is the chairman of the Budget Committee who is supposed to bring us a budget, If you can't bring a budget, you can't govern. So we ask the question now, can this Democratic majority govern?

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I represent the 10th Mountain Division, which is located at Fort Drum in my district, and I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are serving both home and a broad

to prevent future terrorist attacks against our homeland.

After 8 years of failing to identify a clear plan in Afghanistan and provide the resources necessary for our troops to succeed, we are now taking the fight against the terrorists to their own turf, and we have them on the run. Democrats have worked with this President to successfully kill and capture hundreds of al Qaeda and Taliban leaders in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Last week, a suicide bombing attack on a convoy in Kabul reminded us of the brave sacrifice the men and women on the front lines of this fight are making. Two officers from the 10th Mountain Division, both lieutenant colonels, were among those killed. Lieutenant Colonel Paul R. Bartz and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas P. Belkofer were part of a team that was conducting training and setting conditions for the 10th Mountain Division deployments to Afghanistan later this year. This is a heartbreaking loss for the Fort Drum community, and our hearts go out to their families.

AVOIDING CALIFORNIA

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the failure of this House to pass a budget at a time of unprecedented deficit spending speaks volumes of the House majority. In order to resolve a crisis, you must first be willing to face it; and if you can't face the problem, you can't deal with it. That is what the budget process is, the painful but necessary assessment of our financial affairs. Without it, there can't even be a theoretical solution.

I've seen this before in California. As left-wing majorities took control of our financial affairs and boosted spending at a reckless pace, we watched the orderly budget process disintegrate into a mere sham. Unable and unwilling to face up to the consequences of their out-of-control spending, they simply abandoned the budget process. Ultimately, they brought the most prosperous State in our Nation to the brink of bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, California is an example to be avoided, not imitated.

DEMOCRATS ARE COMMITTED TO GET THIS COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, it always amuses me to listen to my Republican colleagues talk about the economy. They talk about smaller government, they talk about lower taxes, they talk about cutting spending. I call this "bumper strip economics." And we've seen what bumper strip economics means. It was called the Bush administration, and that led us to the

worst recession that we faced in this country since the 1930s.

In Kentucky, we've seen what bumper strips actually mean. When Senate candidate Rand Paul says, Smaller government means not just don't hold oil companies accountable, let's not hold mining companies accountable for 29 deaths, let's not even let the government enforce basic civil rights, no, the country needs more than bumper strip economics and slogan politics. We need policies that are actually going to get this country moving again, and that's what Democrats in Congress are committed to providing.

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NEW DRILLING MORATORIUM

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to adopt an ironclad moratorium on all new drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recent reports are saying 17 new permits have been granted since the explosion in the gulf. It is also shocking to find out 19 environmental waivers have been issued since then. Over 6 million gallons have now poured into the gulf, and every day, it continues—250,000 gallons-plus a day.

The Washington Post reported today that the Minerals Management Service officials get paid a cash bonus when they close these deals with the big oil companies. They're not working for the American people. They've got a pay plan. They're working for the oil companies.

We need to halt all permits for oil, new and otherwise, until we cap this well.

FINANCIAL REFORM

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, as financial reform takes shape, we must ask: Do Wall Street banks serve America or themselves? In these last years, we've seen the answer, and it is no surprise. Wall Street serves Wall Street. It could care less about the lives they ruin while seeking profits and bonuses.

The Bush administration allowed Wall Street banks to chase profit by building their growth on a weak foundation of risky debt. Their scheme collapsed. They held America's savings hostage. Congress could not afford to let them fail, so they couldn't lose. Of course, they didn't. America lost.

The International Monetary Fund estimates these gambles have destroyed nearly \$3 trillion of economic value. Recently, economists have estimated the entire cost of World War II to be, roughly, the same. In other words, Wall Street banks devised a way to make billions in profits and bonuses while wiping out the savings of millions of Americans.